THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The currently known uranium reserves are adequate to support an installed capacity of 10,000 MWs. The size of thorium reserves in the country when developed would provide virtually inexhaustible source of power.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Safety measures in nuclear plants

2116. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate safety measures have been taken in the nuclear plants in India to avoid leakages and nuclear fallouts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether experts are satisfied about the adequacy of those measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Adequate engineered safety features have been incorporated against accidents in the nuclear power plants. Double containment and suppression pool have also been provided to ensure that even in the unlikely event of an accident, radioactivity released is contained within the reacter building with minimum escape of radioactivity to the environment, well below the acceptable limits.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Charter of Demands from BEFI

2117. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IBA has since received charter of demands from BEFI and if so, what are the details of this charter and what action have been taken thereon; and

(b) what are the other organisations of the Bank employees which have also since submitted charter of demands to IBA and whether any action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Indian Banks' Association which represent the management side of the Banking Industry have received Charter of Demands from All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA), National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE), National Organisation of Bank Workers (NOBW), Indian National Bank Employees Congress (INBEC) and Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI). The main demands of BEFI are: revision of pay scales based on 1960 Price Index at 660 points, namely-clerks—Rs. 1245—3700 and sub-staff—1030—2100; full neutralisation of Dearness Allowance above Price Index at 660 points; increase/revision in the quantum of existing Special Allowances and other Allowances e.g. House Rent Allowance, City Compensatory Allowance, etc. introduction of Pension, improvements in other service matters such as Provident Fund, Gratuity, Medical Benefits, leave rules; etc.

It is learnt from IBA that they are not willing to invite for the present negotiations those unions, such as BEFI, which have refused to subscribe to the earlier settlements including those on computerisation and mechanisation. IBA has not taken any action on the charter of demands of BEFI. IBA have since held preliminary discussions with representatives of AIBEA and NCB on 24th July, 1987.

Hike in prices of imported newsprit

2118. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep hike in the prices of imported newsprint; if so, the extent thereof;